

more Federal bureaucrats, more Federal rules and with only 47 percent of the Federal dollars reaching the classroom if Pennsylvania is like most States. And I believe that is probably the case in most States.

So it is important that if we are going to really help education from Washington that we allow the local leaders, we make it easy to get the Federal dollars there. If they need maintenance, they can do maintenance. If they need teachers, they can hire teachers. If they need books, they can buy books. If they need computers, they can buy computers. Not Washington telling them, we will help you if you do what we think you should do.

So I think it is very important as we listen to this Presidential debate that we realize that Washington cannot make our school districts better. We can only be a small player if we get the money to the school districts and we allow them to make the decisions that teachers and the administrators and the parents involved in their young people's education, that Washington does not have the answers, Washington will not make it better, it will make it more complicated, few dollars will reach the classroom.

All these bureaucracies that are funded with that 53 percent do not teach a student, do not make a classroom better, do not make a school better, and does not help the role of education.

So as I conclude my comments this evening, it is important that we get the money to the classroom, that we require accountability that students can read, they can do math, they can do science, and they know English. That will give them the basis for their life and will give them a good education.

#### ENERGY DEREGULATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, as things are cooling off here in Washington and the temperature of the city is dropping, to the relief of the local communities, back in San Diego things are heating up. And sadly, they are heating up not because of the weather but because of the inappropriate action of Government and the inaction of those who should be taking care of their constituents.

A few years ago, the State legislature of the State of California tried an experiment called energy deregulation, at the same time that those of us in the Congress were working on deregulation of telecommunications. But unlike what we did successfully here in Washington, the State did not assure competition, access, and infrastructure for the energy consumers of San Diego

County, and soon to be the entire State of California.

Now, it may seem like a political comment to say that, when politicians make mistakes, terrible things happen. But I think too often some of our elected officials do not consider the impact on the real people in the community who are out there doing the great things that we take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, I am in a sad position tonight to announce that an institution in my district in Pacific Beach, a landmark that has been there for 54 years, is going to close because the State legislature of the State of California passed a so-called energy deregulation bill that is now causing electric power rates to rise to such astronomical levels that small businesses are going bankrupt.

The small business I am speaking of is DeVaney's Bakery in Pacific Beach. It has been a bakery that has been around since 1946. It has been a family-owned business that has served not only the local community but the entire sub-region of the coastal area that we call San Diego.

It is sad to see that Sacramento adjourned, Mr. Speaker, this year before they addressed this absolutely critical economic and social crisis in San Diego, which is soon to spread throughout the State of California. I would hope that the speaker and every Member of this Congress would join with me in asking that we try to work together here to do what we can to save the constituency and the citizens of San Diego County, and soon to be California, from this horrendous mistake by the State legislature.

Mr. Speaker, it took a bipartisan effort in Sacramento to create this disaster that is closing down this landmark in Pacific Beach.

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I would ask us here in Washington to step forward and make a bipartisan effort to save businesses throughout San Diego County and California from the devastating effect of this legislative mistake in Sacramento. So I ask us to learn from this tragedy of DeVaney's Bakery and let us work together at trying to see what we can do to protect the constituents from Sacramento's mistake. I hope we do not find excuses to walk away before we can address this issue. It is sad that Sacramento did that. I would ask us, both Democrats and Republicans, to work together. I hope I am not here next week announcing the next business that had to go under.

I would remind Mr. Speaker that this is not just a San Diego problem. San Diego and California has been a driving force at generating revenue for this Federal Government that has constituted what we call the surplus. If we do not address this power crisis in San Diego, it will not only spread through-

out California, it could severely hurt the entire Nation's ability to continue the economic prosperity that so many of us in elective office want to point to and take credit.

Now the challenge is, will we rise to protect this economic recovery by addressing this government problem that was created in Sacramento and may only be corrected now by working together to protect the consumers, the taxpayers, the citizens and, yes, even small businesses like DeVaney's Bakery that has been around so long and will not be around tomorrow because of mistakes that have been made by others, but that we must address.

#### END-OF-SESSION ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

##### BANKRUPTCY REFORM

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, we are nearing the end of the current session as everyone knows and it is very apparent that nerves are frayed and that tempers are short but that is to be expected. That is an occupational disease of being a Member of Congress or of being the member of any parliamentary body anywhere in the world. But we have a special affliction here in Washington because we indulge in this almost every single year with every single year's budget, with every single year's end incessant haggling over minutia and some grand themes in this end-of-the-session battle in which we find ourselves once again.

Bankruptcy reform, which began some 3½ years ago in this very Chamber, is one of those grand items to which I refer as being includable in the end package of legislation which we will be considering in the next few days, perhaps after the new CR is passed even into next week. But there is a distinct difference in taking the bankruptcy reform measure and putting it at the end process for the purpose of yet one final vote on it. It is one that has been thoroughly debated. It is not like at the last minute some appropriator jams something into the omnibus bill at the end about which we know nothing and we are surprised months later to learn that there is a swimming pool now in the middle of the desert where never there was one before. Those kinds of special favor types of items continue to appear in the end product. We acknowledge that. Sometimes we wonder whether there is anything we can do about it except to adopt the proposal that I have proposed for 18 years, no, no, for many, many years now, that is, to have an automatic continuing resolution if we have not reached a budget by the end of the budget year.